Revival of the Pondicherry express train

2276. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pondicherry administration has urged Government to revive the Pondicherry express train which was discontinued four years ago;

(b) whether Government propose to revive the said train; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Railway line from Pondicherry to Cuddalore

2277. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recieved some representations from the people of Pondicherry to start new Railway line from Pondicherry to Cuddalore, being a vital sector from the point of view of industries and travelling public; and

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted the demand; if so, by when the said scheme would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Pondicherry and Cuddalore are already connected by a rail line *via* Villupuram. Due to acute constraint of resources, there is no proposal for a direct rail link between Pondicherry and Cuddalore.

New Railway Terminal at Kurla in Bombay

2278. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set-up a New Railway Terminal at Kurla in Bombay;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the area to be covered and the salient feature and date of its commissioning;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to legal problems, the commisioning has been delayed; and

(d) what are the reasons to drop Vikhroli and to choose Kurla as the site for the said terminal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the first phase, two platform faces, with 6000sq m of platform shelter, 3 stabling lines, 2 pit lines loco shed and station building with 2300 sq. m area etc. are to be provided at an estimated cost of Rs. 24.95 crores. Major portion of work in Phase-I is proposed to be completed in 1989, subject to clearance of a High Court case and removal of hutments (encroachments).

(d) Kurla, being nearer to Bombay, is better suited as a terminal, as compared to Vikhroli.

Construction of road over-bridge near Vidya Vihar railway station in Bombay

2279. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new road over-bridge has been approved for construction near Vidya Vihar Railway Station in Bombay; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the present stage of this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: (a) and (b) The Bombay Municipal Corporation are examining a proposal for the construction of a new road-over-bridge near Vidya Vihar, to be executed by the Railway on 'Deposit Terms'. They have not yet conveyed acceptance to the plans and estimate sent to them by the Railway.

Demand for fast local trains from Bombay

2280. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the last fast suburban local train leaves Bombay V.T. towards North at 20-40 hrs;

(b) whether there has been a great demand for more fast local trains towards Northern side, upto 22-30 hours; and

(c) if so, what action is being taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) the last S.29 Bombay-Karjat local train leaves Bombay V.T. at 20.44 hrs.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Operationally not feasible.

Raissing the height of latforms at Bombay suburban stations

2281 SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the commuters of Western Railway suburban stations in Bombay experience great difficulty in boarding suburban trains, due to the wide gap between the platforms and foot boards of the trains; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to reduce the gap and increase the height of the platform usrfaces?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) A systematic survey has been carried out by Western Railway to identify the suburban stations where raising of level of the platforms is required to be done. Raising of level of these platforms is being done on a programmed basis depending upon availability of funds.

Robbing of Green Cards from Indians in USA

2282. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the immigrants or visitors of Indian origin to the US are increasingly being robbed of their green cards and passports;

(b) whether they include all levels of people, from the wife of an Indian correspondent to a visiting businessmen; and

(c) if so, what are the main reasons therefor, whether Government have taken up the matter with the US Government; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (c) The Government have seen some press reports in this regard. However according to the information received from our Missions/Posts in the USA, there are no indications to show that Indian immigrants/visitors are increasingly being robbed of their passports